

**REMARKS**

The instant application is the U.S. national phase of the corresponding PCT application, which initially was filed abroad. Accordingly, Applicants amend the application herein to better conform the application to U.S. patent practice.

**Amendment to the Specification**

Applicants have amended the specification to claim benefit of an earlier filing date and cross-reference related applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance and request an early favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,

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**MARKED UP VERSION OF REPLACEMENT SECTION**

This application is the U.S. national phase of International (PCT) Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US99/25274, filed on October 28, 1999, and published in English on May 4, 2000, which claims the benefit of and priority to U.S. provisional application Serial Nos. 60/105,933, filed October 28, 1998; 60/110,460, filed December 1, 1998; 60/119,500, filed February 10, 1999; 60/143,440, filed July 13, 1999; and 60/148,279, filed August 11, 1999, and incorporates herein by reference the entirety of each of the disclosures of these provisional applications.

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